

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Kindly cancel original claims 1 - 30 without prejudice, in favor of new claims 31 - 54.

Claims 1 - 30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal, prepared by a process comprising:

- 1) copolymerizing of
 - a) one or more vinyl esters of straight-chain or branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 15 C atoms and
 - b) one or more silicone macromers having at least one polymerizable group to form a copolymer, and
- 2) subsequently hydrolyzing the copolymer to give a silicone-containing polyvinyl alcohol and
- 3) subsequently acetalizing the silicone-containing polyvinyl alcohol with one or more aldehydes selected from the group consisting of aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes having 1 to 15 C atoms.

32. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, wherein the vinyl esters a) include one or more vinyl esters selected from the group consisting of vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, vinyl butyrate, vinyl 2-ethylhexanoate, vinyl laurate, 1-methylvinyl acetate, vinyl pivalate and vinyl esters of α -branched monocarboxylic acids having 5 to 13 C atoms.

33. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, wherein the silicone macromers b) include one or more silicone macromers having the formula

$R^1_a R_{3-a} SiO(SiRR^1O)_b (SiR_2O)_n SiR_{3-a} R^1_a$, each R independently being an identical or different monovalent, optionally substituted alkyl radical or alkoxy radical having 1 to 18 C atoms, each R^1 independently being a polymerizable group, a being 0 or 1, b being from 0 to 10 and n being from 3 to 1000, from 85 to 100% by weight of the silicone macromer containing at least one polymerizable group.

34. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, wherein alkenyl radicals having 2 to 8 C atoms or mercaptoalkyl groups having 1 to 6 C atoms are present as a polymerizable group R^1 .

35. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, wherein at least one silicone macromer having a linear or branched structure is employed, where R = methyl, and where n is from 3 to 1000, said at least one silicone macromer containing one or two terminal, polymerizable groups, containing one or more polymerizable groups in the chain, or containing one or two terminal polymerizable groups and at least one polymerizable group in the chain.

36. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, wherein at least one silicone macromer comprises a binary or ternary mixture of linear or branched polydialkoxysiloxanes without a polymerizable group, in admixture with at least one linear or branched polydialkylsiloxane having one and/or two polymerizable groups.

37. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, wherein one or more silicone macromers are selected from the group consisting of α -monovinylpolydimethylsiloxanes, α -mono(3-acryloyloxypropyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α -mono(acryloyloxymethyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α -mono(methacryloyloxymethyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α -mono(3-methacryloyloxypropyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α,ω -divinylpolydimethylsiloxanes, α,ω -di(3-acryloyloxypropyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α,ω -di(acryloyloxymethyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α,ω -di(methacryloyloxymethyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α,ω -di(3-

methacryloyloxypropyl)polydimethylsiloxanes, α -mono(3-mercaptopropyl)polydimethylsiloxanes and α,ω -di(3-mercaptopropyl)polydimethylsiloxanes.

38. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, wherein butyraldehyde, optionally as a mixture with acetaldehyde, is used for acetalizing.

39. (New) The silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, comprising from 0 to 30% by weight of vinyl ester units, from 5 to 95% by weight of vinyl alcohol units, from 3 to 94.9% by weight of vinyl acetal units, and having a silicone content of from 0.1 to 45% by weight, based on the total weight of the silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal, the weight percentages totaling 100% by weight.

40. (New) A process for the preparation of a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31, comprising:

1) copolymerizing

a) one or more vinyl esters of straight-chain or branched alkylcarboxylic acids having 1 to 15 C atoms, and

b) one or more silicone macromers having at least one polymerizable group, to form a copolymer;

2) subsequently hydrolyzing the copolymer to give a silicone-containing polyvinyl alcohol; and

3) subsequently acetalizing the silicone-containing polyvinyl alcohol with one or more aldehydes selected from the group consisting of aliphatic and aromatic aldehydes having 1 to 15 C atoms.

41. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein the copolymerizing is effected by mass polymerization, suspension polymerization, or polymerization in organic solvents.

42. (New) The process of claim 41, wherein copolymerizing is effected in a nonaqueous, organic solvent in the presence of free radical initiators, the nonaqueous solvent

used being a mixture of at least two nonaqueous solvents, at least one of which nonaqueous solvents has a transfer constant C_s with respect to vinyl acetate of $C_s > 20 \times 10^{-4}$ at 70°C .

43. (New) The process of claim 40, wherein the hydrolysis is effected to a degree of hydrolysis of from 30 to 100 mol%.

44. (New) A printing ink composition, comprising a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31 as a binder.

45. (New) The printing ink composition of claim 44, comprising from 5 to 50% by weight of pigments, from 4 to 40% by weight of silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal binder, and solvent, said weight percents based on the total weight of said composition.

46. (New) A laminated safety glass, glass laminate or window film, comprising a film or coating of at least one silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31.

47. (New) In a process for the preparation of an aqueous dispersion or a redispersible polymer wherein a protective colloid is employed, the improvement comprising selecting as at least one protective colloid, a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31.

48. (New) A water-based or organic solvent-based finish, comprising a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31 as at least one binder.

49. (New) In a corrosion inhibitor composition wherein a binder is employed, the improvement comprising selecting as at least one binder, a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31.

50. (New) In a composition comprising at least one binder and at least one ceramic powder or metal powder, the improvement comprising selecting a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31 as a binder.

51. (New) A can having an internal coating comprising a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31.

52. (New) An article of one or more of wood, metal, glass, plastic, paper, having disposed thereon a coating comprising a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31.

53. (New) In a process for the preparation of a release coating, a water repellant composition, a textile coating, a textile treating composition, a cosmetic composition, an antifoam formulation, or a polish, the improvement comprising selecting as at least one ingredient thereof, a silicone-containing polyvinyl acetal of claim 31.

54. (New) A construction composition containing at least one hydraulically settable inorganic binder and at least one silicone-modified polyvinyl acetal of claim 31.